

**Eldred Township Supervisors**  
**Regular Meeting**  
November 8, 2023

This meeting was held at the Eldred Township Building.

Call to order at 4:31 PM by Chairman Greeley.

The meeting was opened with a salute to the flag.

Roll Call: Supervisors Gordon Greeley, and John MacBeth in attendance. Supervisor Lawrence Ross, Jr. was absent.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:**

Jim Cassett commented on the condition of Blair Road – culverts are plugged, and water is running down the road.

A motion to approve the October 11, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes was made by Supervisor MacBeth. The motion was seconded by Chairman Greeley. Vote: 2 ayes. Motion carried.

A motion to acknowledge receipt of the Treasurer's Report was made by Supervisor MacBeth. The motion was seconded by Chairman Greeley. Vote: 2 ayes. Motion carried.

**Total Receipts** (October 1, 2023 to October 31, 2023): \$81,133.86

**Total Expenditures** (October 1, 2023 to October 31, 2023): \$84,651.87

**Total Balance (all accounts) on October 31, 2023:** \$235,221.26

A motion to approve payment of the invoices for October 2023, in the amount of \$73,344.44 was made by Supervisor MacBeth. The motion was seconded by Chairman Greeley. Vote: 2 ayes. Motion carried.

A motion to approve payment of the payroll expenses for October 2023, in the amount of \$11,307.43 was made by Supervisor MacBeth. The motion was seconded by Chairman Greeley. Vote: 2 ayes. Motion carried.

**ROADMASTER REPORT:**

The roadmaster was absent.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1. Three applications were received for the road worker position. All three applicants were interviewed. Supervisor MacBeth said that one candidate stood out. Chairman Greeley made a motion to hire Hunter Geer at a pay rate of \$16.97 per hour. The motion was seconded by Supervisor MacBeth. Vote: 2 ayes. Motion carried.

Supervisor MacBeth said that he will call Hunter and let him know.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Debbie Stewart from Hoak Insurance presented choices for a health plan for the full-time employees.

- The current Township health plan is a PPO, which means there is coverage for in-network and out-of-network providers and facilities. It has a \$1,500.00 deductible, which the Township reimburses.
- EPO plans have lower premiums, but coverage is for UPMC providers and facilities only. There is no out-of-network coverage. Emergency is covered anywhere.
- Debbie suggested asking the employee with children to consider Blue CHIP of Western Pennsylvania for the children. They are eligible for coverage until they turn 19. The cost would depend on the family size and household income. Some income levels are free. The premium for CHIP would be much less than the UPMC plan. The Township would pay the premium. Debbie said that CHIP would send invoices. She suggested asking the employee and spouse to come to her office for information.

Chairman Greeley made a motion to keep the PPO plan that the Township currently has and talk to the employee with children about getting CHIP for the children. The motion was seconded by Supervisor MacBeth. Vote: 2 ayes. Motion carried.

2. An application is being submitted for grant funds to pave the entire length of Greeley Road. After inspecting the road, Marc Skarbek, of PennDOT's Engineering District 10, prepared a cost estimate of \$878,780.00 for a 4-inch depth, 19mm asphalt binder course, in place, and 1,300 feet of 19mm asphalt binder wedge curb, in place. The grant application requires a Resolution that designates officials to sign documents and states the amount requested. Chairman Greeley made a motion to designate Gordon R. Greeley and John T. MacBeth as the officials to execute all documents and agreements between Eldred Township and the Commonwealth Financing Authority to facilitate and assist in obtaining the requested grant. The motion was seconded by Supervisor MacBeth. Vote: 2 ayes. Motion carried.

Chairman Greeley made an additional motion to adopt Resolution 2023-7 and request a Statewide Local Share Assessment grant in the amount of \$878,780.00 to be used for paving the entire length of Greeley Road. The motion was seconded by Supervisor MacBeth. Vote: 2 ayes. Resolution adopted.

3. Lisa Kelso presented a Transmissal Memo with a revised Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) Worksheet for the pension plan. The MMO Worksheet approved at the September 13, 2023 meeting did not include estimated 2023 wages for an employee that was added to the pension plan later in September. The revised MMO Worksheet includes those wages. Chairman Greeley made a motion to approve the revised MMO Worksheet. The motion was seconded by Supervisor MacBeth. Vote: 2 ayes. Motion carried.

4. Quotes were received for a new stainless-steel bed with a lift system for the 2004 International dump truck. Both quotes are from COSTAR vendors, so the Township won't have to advertise for bids. Stephenson Equipment quoted \$39,600.00

U.S. Municipal quoted \$34,610.00

Chairman Greeley made a motion to accept the quote from U.S. Municipal and order the bed and lift system. The motion was seconded by Supervisor MacBeth. Vote: 2 ayes. Motion carried.

5. The Greater Jefferson Area Council of Governments voted at their October 23, 2023 meeting to increase dues for every member municipality by \$200.00, which would make Eldred Township's 2024 dues \$700.00. The C.O.G. is funded in large part by a portion of the fees for UCC building permits issued by Bureau Veritas for C.O.G. members that have appointed Bureau Veritas as their UCC Inspector and use the C.O.G.'s contract with Bureau Veritas. Dues were increased because fewer funds are being received from Bureau Veritas. LeeAnn Hinderliter, the C.O.G.'s Coordinator, and sole employee, has opted to take a \$3,000.00 pay cut to reduce the budget. The C.O.G. is requesting approval of its 2024 budget. The Supervisors tabled the matter until the December meeting.

6. The Jefferson County Solid Waste Authority sent a letter requesting a recycling allocation. Chairman Greeley made a motion to contribute \$500.00 to the Jefferson County Solid Waste Authority. The motion was seconded by Supervisor MacBeth. Vote: 2 ayes. Motion carried.

7. The Supervisors declined a donation request from the Rebecca M. Arthurs Memorial Library.

8. The EADS Group sent a proposal for professional services for drafting a solar ordinance. EADS anticipates the process to take approximately 3 months and there is an estimated fee of \$3,500.00. The Supervisors tabled the matter until the December meeting.

9. The Supervisors inspected the proposed budget worksheet and discussed the estimated payroll and employee pay rates. Chairman Greeley made a motion to promote Paul Ross to Road Foreman at a pay rate of \$20.00 per hour (effective on the next pay period), to increase Ryan Graham's pay rate to \$17.58 per hour (effective on the next pay period), to start Hunter Geer at a pay rate of \$16.97 per hour, and to approve a Township credit card for Paul Ross with a credit limit of \$5,000.00. The motion was seconded by Supervisor MacBeth. Vote: 2 ayes. Motion carried.

10. The real estate tax levy was discussed. The 2023 assessed valuation of Eldred Township has a taxable total of \$29,049,570.00. One mill equals \$29,049.57 at face value, and \$26,144.61 at a 90% collection rate. Chairman Greeley expressed concern about the rising cost of everything. Taxes haven't been raised for a long time. [Secretary note: general purposes real estate taxes were last raised by one mill at the December 4, 2012 regular meeting.] Chairman Greeley made a motion to raise the general purposes tax rate by one mill and to set the 2024 General Purposes tax levy at 4.1 mills and the Fire Protection tax levy at 0.5 mills. The motion was seconded by Supervisor MacBeth. Vote: 2 ayes.

Chairman Greeley then made a motion to approve the 2024 proposed budget after the following changes are made and to advertise it for public inspection: the estimated real estate tax revenue is updated, and the estimated payroll expense and healthcare expense are updated. The motion was seconded by Supervisor MacBeth. Vote: 2 ayes. Motion carried.

#### **OTHER SUPERVISOR COMMENTS OR CONCERNS**

1. Chairman Greeley said that Mr. Hainley, who is working on developing a website for the Township, would like a list of items to be included on the website. The list of items discussed were:

- A picture of the Township Building showing the sign with the building name
- The address and phone number
- The ATV permit application
- The meeting days and time
- Agendas
- Minutes
- Ordinances
- Sewage Enforcement Officer name and number

The Secretary will get the list to Mr. Hainley.

2. Chairman Greeley noted that the Supervisors will need to appoint two Auditors in January. There was a discussion about who may be interested. Chairman Greeley said that there were write-ins on the ballot from the November 7, 2023 election and asked the Secretary to call the election office to see if they could send a list.

A motion to adjourn was made at 6:12 PM by Chairman Greeley. The motion was seconded by Supervisor MacBeth. Vote: 2 ayes. Motion carried.

The next regular meeting will be held at the Eldred Township Building on December 13, 2023, at 4:30 pm.

Lisa Kelso  
Secretary